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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14, 16 & 17, 2003

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 30A, 80, 100A and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) have scheduled hearings on the following regulatory proposals. Contact DMF for draft regulations and further details.

- 1. Accept comments pertaining to a recent emergency action to increase commercial lobster minimum size (322 CMR 6.01) in Lobster Conservation Management Area 2 to comply with recent action taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission. The minimum size was increased effective March 15, 2003 to 3 11/32" and to 3 3/8" for July 1, 2003.**
- 2. DMF proposals to amend recreational and commercial striped bass regulations (322 CMR 6.07).**
 - a. For commercial fisheries, DMF will accept comments on a reduction in the daily bag limit that is currently at 40 fish, a change in the minimum size that is currently at 34", and a shift in the no-fishing days, and other measures designed to extend the season.
 - b. For recreational fishermen, DMF proposes to increase the bag limit from one fish to two and will accept comments on alternative minimum sizes.
- 3. DMF proposals to amend the commercial scup regulations (322 CMR 6.28) regarding the May 1- October 31 summer quota.** An increase in the weir fishery set-aside to 225,000 lbs. is proposed. Increased daily trip limit (from 250 to 400 lbs.) is proposed for the directed fishery. By-catch limit of 100 lbs. is proposed for the directed sea bass pot fishery during May and June. A postponement of the directed fishery from July 1 to August 1 is proposed. The number of no-fishing days during the directed fishery may be increased from 2 to 3 per week.
- 4. DMF proposal to complement federal trawl regulations pertaining to mesh size restrictions (322 CMR 8.07) by requiring at least 6 1/2" mesh only in the cod-end of the net but allow at least 6" mesh in the remainder of the net.**

Three public hearings have been scheduled:

Monday April 14, 2003 (7-10 PM) at the Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station
Wednesday April 16, 2003 (6:30 to 10 pm) at the Forestdale School, off Rt. 130 in Sandwich
April 17, 2003 (7-10 PM) at the Viking Club in Braintree and
For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.